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2020

### Writing for the Sciences

Joseph Boisvere  
*CUNY City College*

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# The City College of New York

**ENG 21003 S(26470)**  
**Writing for the Sciences**  
**Fall 2020**  
**M/W 12:30-1:45pm**  
**Instructor: Joseph Boisvere**  
**[jboisvere@gradcenter.cuny.edu](mailto:jboisvere@gradcenter.cuny.edu)**  
**Office Location:**  
**Office Hours: By Appointment**

## **Course Description:**

This is a composition course that will serve to hone your writing abilities as they pertain to your pursuits in the sciences. We will engage with both academic texts on rhetorical strategies in scientific writing and with scientific writing itself as we find it in library databases and in popular periodicals. This course will involve regular writing projects and much in-class discussion.

## **Course Learning Outcomes:**

- acknowledge your and others' range of linguistic differences as resources, and draw on those resources to develop rhetorical sensibility
- enhance strategies for reading, drafting, revising, editing, and self-assessment
- negotiate your own writing goals and audience expectations regarding conventions of genre, medium, and rhetorical situation
- develop and engage in the collaborative and social aspects of writing processes
- engage in genre analysis and multimodal composing to explore effective writing across disciplinary contexts and beyond
- formulate and articulate a stance through and in your writing
- practice using various library resources, online databases, and the Internet to locate sources appropriate to your writing projects
- strengthen your source use practices (including evaluating, integrating, quoting, paraphrasing, summarizing, synthesizing, analyzing, and citing sources)

**Required Material:**

**This is a ZTC course. Any required readings will be found on The New York Times' website or will be provided to you through Blackboard.**

**Your New York Times subscription.**

City College Blackboard: Other reading and writing materials, PowerPoint slideshows and videos will be posted online on BB during the semester. **Please Note: You must use your CCNY email address in Bb (log in to the CCNY Portal, click Blackboard, then Update Email in the Tools menu). If you add a non-CCNY domain email address in this window, you will not receive important course announcements.**

**Assignment Grade Weights:**

Technical Description: 15%

Scientific Controversy Paper: 15%

Research Paper/Presentation: 20%

Portfolio: 20%

Participation: 30%

**Full Assignments:**

(Detailed descriptions and expectations for each assignment will be distributed when appropriate).

**-Technical Description:** This assignment will ask you to describe an object, mechanism, or process. This description does not have to be entirely scientific. Discuss how it works within the world with regard to other processes happening around it, etc. 3-4 pages, due Oct. 3.

**-Scientific Controversy Paper:** You will be asked to describe a contemporary scientific controversy, detailing all sides of the controversial topic and then weighing in with your own opinion, which you will justify using scientific evidence. 5-6 pages, due Oct. 29.

**-Research Paper:** You will work in groups to write a research paper on a topic of your choosing. You must use peer reviewed sources to justify your argument. Papers will be presented during the final weeks of class. 6-8 pages, due Nov. 26.

**-Portfolio:** You will submit revisions of three Low Stakes assignments, either your Scientific Controversy Paper, or your Technical Description, as well as a revised version of your Research Paper. With these revisions you will include a Self-Assessment Essay of 2-3 pages within which you will assess your progress as a writer in the sciences over the course of the semester and explain how the

**-Weekly Discussion Boards:** Each week we will hold one of our classes asynchronously on Blackboard using discussion forums to share our thoughts about course readings, topics of conversation, etc. Each week, students will be responsible for responding to at least one of the forums that I will begin (3-5 sentences) and for commenting on at least two other students' threads (2-3

sentences).

All assignments will be turned in via Blackboard Tunitin. Size 12 font, double spaced, and following MLA citation format. As mentioned above, for all but the low-stakes assignments you will receive in-depth descriptions as deadlines near.

### **Course Policies:**

#### **CCNY's Statement on Community Standards**

<https://www.ccnycuny.edu/studentaffairs/community-standards>

### **Attendance:**

Students are expected to attend every class session of this course and to be on time. As participation is 30% of your final grade, it is unlikely that a student who does not regularly attend class can do very well in this course. Consistent late arrivals and early departures will have a negative impact on your grade. I will notify you by email if course absences (for full or partial classes) are having an impact on your grade. If you have special circumstances, please see me. I'm happy to work with you to help you complete this course.

#### **Student Support Services Program, NAC 6/148**

<https://www.ccnycuny.edu/sssp>

SSSP invites new students, especially incoming freshmen and transfers at the start of fall, to join us up to our 500-student cap. SSSP students should be either first-generation college students OR have a family income below a certain threshold. SEEK students are not eligible to join as SSSP's services in many ways mirror SEEK's. To apply, complete the application at [https://www.ccnycuny.edu/sssp/sssp\\_application](https://www.ccnycuny.edu/sssp/sssp_application). Accepted students have full access to SSSP's services, which include academic advising, personal counseling, and tutoring in the [Academic Resource Center](#) in Marshak 1104. Tutoring supports all disciplines, and offers SSSP students the only online, 24/7 writing review service currently offered at City. Students requesting in-person writing tutoring are assigned to the same tutor for a series of meetings which can be weekly or customized to the students' schedule of due dates.

#### **The Writing Center, NAC Third Floor**

<https://www.ccnycuny.edu/writing>

The City College Writing Center offers one-on-one assistance for students working on writing assignments and projects from any discipline.

#### **Gateway Advising Center, NAC 1/220**

<http://www.ccnycunycny.edu/gateway/>

Students without a declared major can receive academic advising, especially if you have questions about your course of study, core requirements, etc.

### Weekly Schedule

<b>Date</b>	<b>Assignment Due</b>	<b>In Class</b>
<b>8/29</b>	<b>Personal Statement</b>	<b>Discussion</b>
<b>9/3-9/5</b>	<b>Introduce WLS</b>	<b>No Class 9/5</b>
<b>9/10-9/12</b>	<b>NYT Response Due 9/12</b>	
<b>9/17-9/19</b>	<b>Product Review Due 9/19</b>	
<b>9/24-9/26</b>	<b>NYT Response Due 9/26</b>	
<b>10/1-10/3</b>	<b>Technical Description Due 10/3</b>	<b>No Class 10/1</b>
<b>10/8-10/10</b>	<b>Product Review Due 10/10</b>	<b>No Class 10/8</b>
<b>10/15-10/17</b>	<b>NYT Response Due 10/17</b>	
<b>10/22-10/24</b>	<b>Product Review Due 10/24</b>	
<b>10/29-10/31</b>	<b>Scient. Controversy Due 10/29</b>	
<b>11/5-11/7</b>	<b>Biblio. For Research Due 11/7</b>	<b>Research Methods</b>
<b>11/12-11/14</b>	<b>Abstract Due 11/14</b>	
<b>11/19-11/21</b>	<b>Work on Research Papers</b>	<b>Computer Lab 11/21</b>
<b>11/26-11/28</b>	<b>Research Paper Due 11/26</b>	<b>No Class 11/28</b>
<b>12/3-12/5</b>	<b>Presentations</b>	<b>Presentations</b>
<b>12/10-12/12</b>	<b>Portfolio Due 12/12</b>	<b>Computer Lab 12/10</b>